(b) whether it is a fact that customers are not aware, before hand, of the charges that would be levied for a particular ATM transaction while using an ATM of another bank;

(c) if so, what steps Government is taking to provide free ATM access to all; and

(d) by when, this would be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has issued a circular on March 10, 2008, laying down a framework of service charges to be levied on customers using the ATMs of other banks. The objective is to provide customers easier access to ATMs and bring transparency in the levy of service charges.

RBI had placed on its website an approach paper on 23rd December 2007 and sought public comments. The comments received have been analysed. Based on the feedback, a frame work of service charges would be implemented by all the banks as under:

Sl. No.	Service	Charges
1.	For use of own ATMs for any purpose.	Free (with immediate effect)
2.	For use of other bank ATMs for balance enquiries.	Free (with immediate effect)
3.	For use of other bank ATMs for cash withdrawals.	* No bank increase the charges prevailing as on December 23, 2007 (i.e. the date of release of Approach Paper on RBI website). * Banks which are charging more than Rs. 20 per transaction shall reduce the charges to a maximum of Rs. 20 per transaction by March 31, 2008. * Free with effect from April 1, 2009.

For the services at (1) and (2) above, the customer will not be levied any charge under any other head and the service will be totally free.

For the service number (3) the charge of Rs. 20/- indicated will be all inclusive and no other charges will be levied to the customers under any other head irrespective of the amount of withdrawal.

'Cross' Mark on Two Rupee Coin

†1913. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that there is mass resentment in the country due to substitution of cross mark in place of picture of Mahatma Gandhi on Two Rupee coin;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the meaning of this 'Cross mark; and

(c) by when it would be removed keeping in view the resentment of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has not substituted Mahatma Gandhi's picture with cross mark on Two Rupee coin. The Government decided in 2005 to issue Re. 1 & Rs. 2 coins with the theme "Unity in Diversity' symbolised by the arithmetical sign "Plus" which denotes "inclusiveness".

(c) The themes on coins are periodically changed. The Rs. 2/- coin is now being minted with a new theme "Nritya Mudra" since June, 2007.

High Rate of Taxation in India

†1914. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge disparity in respect of taxation of companies and individuals under the taxation system in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian citizen pay taxes to Government at much higher rates in comparison to the citizens of other developed and developing countries of the world; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons of higher tax rates in comparison to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Corporate income-tax rate and the maximum marginal rate for personal income tax are at the same rate of 30 per cent.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The personal income tax rates in India, being progressive and moderate, are comparable with international tax rates.

"Maximum Limit for Investment in Monthly Income Scheme"

1915. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maximum limit for investment in the Monthly Income Scheme being run through Post Offices has been enhanced from Rs. 3 lakh to 4.5 lakh for a single investor;

(b) if so, whether Government would also consider to increase limits under Post Office Savings Bank Account and other postal schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise and the likely date from which the same would be applicable; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.